

- \$66.00
- \$ 30.00

#15/Amndt C (R-312) (105)
R. Morgan
PATENT 6/4/98

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: John C. Mitchell et al.

Examiner: T. Smits

Serial No.: 08/720,373

Group Art Unit: 2308

Filed: September 27, 1996

Docket: 491.003US1

Title: DATA PROCESSING METHOD AND APPARATUS

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.312

Received

MAY 1 1998

Group 2700

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

All pending claims in the above-identified application have been allowed, pursuant to a Notice of Allowance dated March 24, 1998. However, since receiving the Notice, two matters necessitating this amendment have come to light. First, in preparing formal drawings, it was necessary to divide Figure 9 into Figures 9A and 9B, and thus to amend the specification, including the Brief Description of the Drawings, to properly refer to both Figures 9A and 9B, or to Figure 9A or 9B, as appropriate. Second, upon further review of the application, applicant discovered some minor antecedence errors in the allowed claims. Thus, this amendment is needed to maintain correspondence between the specification and the drawings and to ensure proper antecedence throughout the allowed claims.

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.312, this amendment requires no additional search or examination since the changes to the specification and claims only address formal matters of drawing reference and claim antecedence. Moreover, as amended, the allowed claims remain patentable since the prior art still fails to teach or suggest, for example, a speech-recognition interface or interface application program which is universal to a plurality of different applications, which includes position-monitoring functions, or which includes linking-data-update functions. Lastly, these amendments were not presented earlier because the formal drawing issue was unforeseen and the claim antecedence errors were overlooked by both the applicant and the Examiner.

OK to enter
JL
6/4/98